Claims held allowable in EP App No. 01 918 824.2:

1. Use of at least one cyclooxygenase inhibitor for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound, wherein the close wound is caused by appearance of a hypertrophic or keloid scar on a wound that is closed after an open wound has been re-epithelialized, and wherein the wound is selected from the group consisting of: a wound caused by laceration; a wound caused by avulsion; a wound caused by burn; a wound caused by surgery; a wound caused b chemical facial peel; and a wound caused by accident.

2. The use of Claim 1 wherein the at least one cyclooxygenase inhibitor is selected from salicylic acid and salts thereof, acetylsalicylic acid and salts thereof, substituted or unsubstituted aralykyl, allyl, and substituted or unsubstituted, linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl esters of acetylsalicylic acid; ibuprofen; celecoxib; rofecoxib; flufenamic acid; indomethacin; nabumetone; naproxen; pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and blends thereof.

3. The use of Claim 1, wherein the ester of acetylsalicylic acid is selected from methyl acetylsalicylate, ethyl acetylsalicylate, and benzyl acetylsalicylate.

4. Use of a cyclooxygenase inhibitor for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound, wherein the cyclooxygenase inhibitor is present in a hydrogel.

5. Use of at least one NF-kB inhibitor for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound.

6. The use of any one of claims 1, 2, and 5 wherein the cyclooxygenase inhibitor or NF-kB inhibitor is present in a thermal insulating material.

7. The use of Claim 5 of Claim 6 wherein the NF-kB inhibitor is selected from salicylic acid; salts of salicylic acid; aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, allyl, and substituted or unsubstituted, linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl esters of salicylic acid; sulindac sulfide; sulindac sulfone; sulfasalazine; pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and blends thereof.

8. The use of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 wherein the cyclooxygenase inhibitor or NF-kB inhibitor is administered using a route of administration selected from topical application to the closed wound, oral, injection, and combinations thereof.

9. The use of claim 1or claim 5 wherein the medicament comprises a pharmaceutical carrier which includes one or more substances that relieve skin irritation when the cyclooxygenase or NF-kB inhibitor is topically administered to the closed wound.

10. The use of Claim 6 where (a) the cyclooxygenase inhibitor or NF-kB inhibitor is present in an amount up to 40 percent of the weight of the thermal insulating material; or (b) the thermal insulating material comprises a sponge; or (c) the cyclooxygenase inhibitor or NF-kB inhibitor is administered as a composition comprising from 0.1 to 10 percent by weight of said inhibitor in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. Use of an NF-kB inhibitor for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound, wherein the NF-kB inhibitor is present in a hydrogel.

12. Use of a thermal insulating material including at least one antiirritant compound and at least one cyclooxygenase or NF-kB inhibitor for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound.

13. The use of Claim 9 or Claim 12 wherein the antiirritant material includes at least one substance selected from diphenhydramine, calamine, and a C_3-C_4 diol.

14. Use of a hydrogel including acetylsalicylic acid for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound, the hydrogel being effective to elevate the surface temperature of the closed wound.

15. The use of any one of the preceding claims wherein the cyclooxygenase inhibitor, NF-kB inhibitor, or antiirritant material or acetylsalicylic acid is administered with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

16. The use of any one of the preceding claims wherein the amount of cyclooxygenase inhibitor, NF-kB inhibitor, antiirritant material or acetylsalicylic acid that is administered comprises from 40

micrograms to 400 micrograms of inhibitor material or acetylsalicylic acid per square centimetre of treated tissue.

17. The use of any one of the preceding claims wherein the surface temperature of the closed wound is elevated from 0.5°C to 5°C.

18. The use of Claim 16 wherein the acetylsalicylic acid is present in an amount up to 40 percent of the weight of the hydrogel.

19. The use of any one of the preceding claims wherein the closed wound is a hypertrophic scar, a keloid scar, a Dupuytren's contracture, a reactive scar, an excessive post-operative scar, or a fibrotic scar.

20. The use of any one of the preceding claims wherein a deodorant agent is included in the medicament.

21. The use of claim 20, wherein the deodorant agent is selected from aluminum zirconium trichlorohydrex and zinc acetate.

22. Use of a cyclooxygenase inhibitor or an NF-kB inhibitor for the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating a condition caused by the appearance of a hypertrophic or a keloid scar on a closed wound, in combination with a substance that relieves skin irritations, an antimicrobial agent, and thermal insulating material.

23. A kit for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound comprising (a) a cyclooxygenase inhibitor or (b) an NF-kB inhibitor and a hydrogel.

24. A kit for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound comprising a hydrogel that includes (a) a cyclooxygenase inhibitor, or (b) and NF-kB inhibitor.

25. A kit according to Claim 23 further comprising a sterile solution for mixing with the cyclooxygenase inhibitor or NF-kB inhibitor.

26. A kit for reducing the size and improving the appearance of a closed wound including a hydrogel and a composition comprising:

    i. 2 percent to 5 percent of salicylic acid or a derivative thereof;
    ii. 2 percent to 5 percent of acetylsalicylic acid or a derivative thereof;

iii. 2 percent to 5 percent of a compound selected from ibuprofen and other non-steroidal agents specifically inhibiting prostaglandin E2; and
iv. 2 percent to 5 percent of a compound selected from non-steroidal agents specifically inhibiting cyclooxygenase 2;
v. 2 percent to 5 percent of a compound selected from aluminum hydroxide, aluminum zirconium trichlorohydrex, and other metallic anti-microbials;
vi. 2 percent to 5 percent of a compound selected from diphenhydramine and other anti-pruritic agents; and
vii. mixtures thereof.

27. A kit according to Claim 23, further including (a) an anti-pruritic compound and an anti-microbial agent; or (b) at least one device for affixing the hydrogel to an affected area of skin.

28. A kit according to Claim 24, further including (a) a cyclooxygenase inhibitor for oral administration, or (b) diphenhydramine for oral administration.